THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) No specific guidelines have been laid down for the participation of medium/small sector organisations in the Petroleum Sector. Both in the exploration/production activities for crude oil and for the setting up of refineries very large financial outlays are required. Parties who are in a position to raise the required funds are free to enter into areas that have been opened up for Private investment. Private investment in exploration and production activities is being sought through competitive bidding system which requires large capital and high technology. Small and medium sized companies are free to bid on their own or in partnership with other large companies. In the supply of goods and equipment to public sector all Companies, a price preference of upto 15% can be given to small scale manufacturers as per the prevalent government orders.

Steps to protect interest traditional fishermen

162. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in January, 1996 fishermen throughout the country went on strike against the Government policy of granting licences to foreign fishing companies which will adversely affect the traditional fishermen of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial action Government have taken or propose to take to protect the interests of traditional fishermen in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The National Action Committee of Central Trade Unions against foreign fishing vessels had given a strike call on 18th January, 1996 seeking inter-alia, the cancellation of various permissions issued by the Government for deep sea fishing in the Indian EEZ. In the backdrop of similar agitations earlier, the Government had constituted a committee to make recommendations for review of the deep sea fishing policy. This included Members of Parliament from coastal areas, representatives from various Ministries and organisations of Central and State Governments, representatives of traditional, mechanised and deep sea fishing sectors etc. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 8th February, 1996. Action has been initiated at inter-Ministerial level to examine the recommendations of the Review Committee. Government has also announced certain interim measures such as ban on deep sea fishing during the breeding seasons, conditional upon a similar ban being imposed by the State Government's so as to protect the interests of the traditional fishermen.

डी०टी०सी० के किराये में वृद्धि

163. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले कुछ महीनों में दिल्ली परिवहन निगम के निदेशक मंडल ने निगम को आर्थिक संकट से उबारने के लिए डी०टी०सी० के किराये में पुनः वृद्धि करने संबंधी प्रस्ताव सरकार को भेजा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या निगम की वित्तीय स्थिति सुधारने हेतु कतिपय अन्य सुझाव भी भेजे गए हैं;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) इस संबंध में सरकार का क्या निर्णय है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० राजशेखर मूर्ति): (क) से (ङ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और राज्य सभा के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।